



National Alliance to  
**END HOMELESSNESS**

## **Understanding Family Homelessness and the Role of State and Local Partners**

# National Numbers

- About 65,000 families with children were identified on a single night in a homeless shelter/transitional housing program or in unsheltered location.
  - 20,462 individuals in families (about 1 in 10) identified in place not unintended for human habitation.
- Annual prevalence: 160,301 households with 517,000 adults and children.
- 1.4 million school age children identified as living in shelters, homeless service programs, unsheltered locations, motels, or in doubled up situations during the school year.

# Housing Needs



People in poverty living in doubled up situations  
7 million

“Literally”  
homeless  
560,000

# What do we know about families who do become homeless?

- Mostly single parents
- Parents are often young (many under age 25)
- African-American families over-represented
  - (3x gen pop./2x pop. living in poverty)
- Half of children in shelter age 5 or under
  - Risk of homelessness is higher the younger the child
- Families are very poor with thin social networks
- Children are at the far end of a “continuum of risk”
- About 20% of parents have a disability

# Culhane Typology: Improving Family Homeless Systems

Service Pattern	Percent	Historical Response	New Response
Temporary	72-80%	Short shelter/TH stays	Rapid Re-housing when necessary
Long-Stays	15-20%	Long transitional housing stays	Rapid Re-housing/Some retention of TH
Episodic	5 – 8%	Multiple shelter stays	Intensive housing & service models – including PSH

# Core Components of Rapid Re-Housing

Housing Identification

Rent and Move-In Assistance (Financial)

Rapid Re-housing Case Management and Services

# Rapid Re-Housing Decreases Public Assistance spending per family by 50%.

Old System:  
Emergency Shelter to Transitional Housing

Service	Rate per Day	Average LOS	Cost per Family
Emergency Shelter	\$125	87 Days	\$10,875
Transitional Housing	\$84	253 Days	\$21,252
Total Average Cost Per Family:			\$32,127

New System:  
Rapid Re-housing

Service	Rate per day	Average LOS	Cost per Family
Emergency Shelter	\$125	54 Days	\$ 6,750
Rapid Re-Housing	\$50	189 Days	\$9,450
Total Average Cost Per Family:			\$16,200

# Rapid Re-housing Works!

Decreased  
Length of  
Time on Public  
Assistance



Rapid Re-Housing: **189 Days**  
Transitional Housing: 339 Days

Increased  
Earned Monthly  
Income



Rapid Re-Housing: **50%**  
Transitional Housing: 14%

Reduced  
Recidivism  
Rate



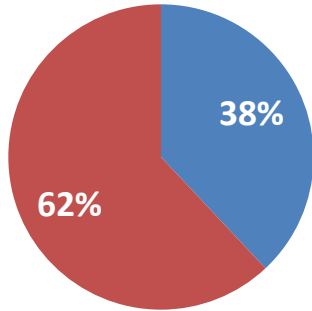
Rapid Re-Housing: **6%**  
Transitional Housing: 21%



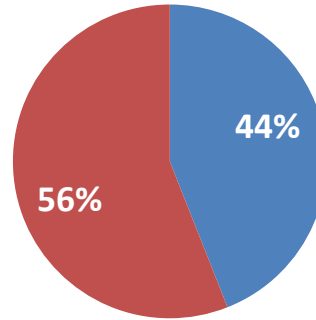
# 2014 Snapshot (Spokane)

## Housing Inventory by Permanent and Temporary Housing Type

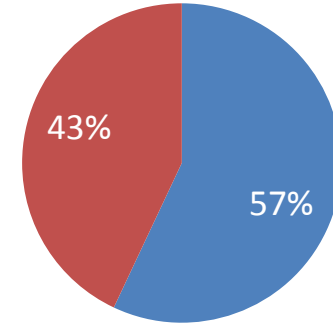
2012



2013



2014



## Point In Time Total Households with Children

2011

275

2012

170

2013

152

2014

146

2015

121

## Total Households Served in Temporary Housing

2012

631

2013

908

2014

1175

# Our Need: Ending Family Homelessness by 2020 (Houston)

## National estimates: 25-30% of households will need RRH

- ~ 30,000 unduplicated enrollments in 2011/2012 program year
- ~ 900 enrollments in RRH
- **Estimated gap of ~ 8100 RRH Slots Needed for Singles and Families**

## Estimated\* Annualized Homeless Families : 1,519

- 239 will need PSH
- **1,162 could benefit from RRH**
- 191 will need ES only

## RRH Works! - Family Homelessness has decreased for PIT

- 2012 – 723 Families
- 2013 – 524 Families
- 2014 – 442 Families

# Transitional Housing vs Rapid Rehousing

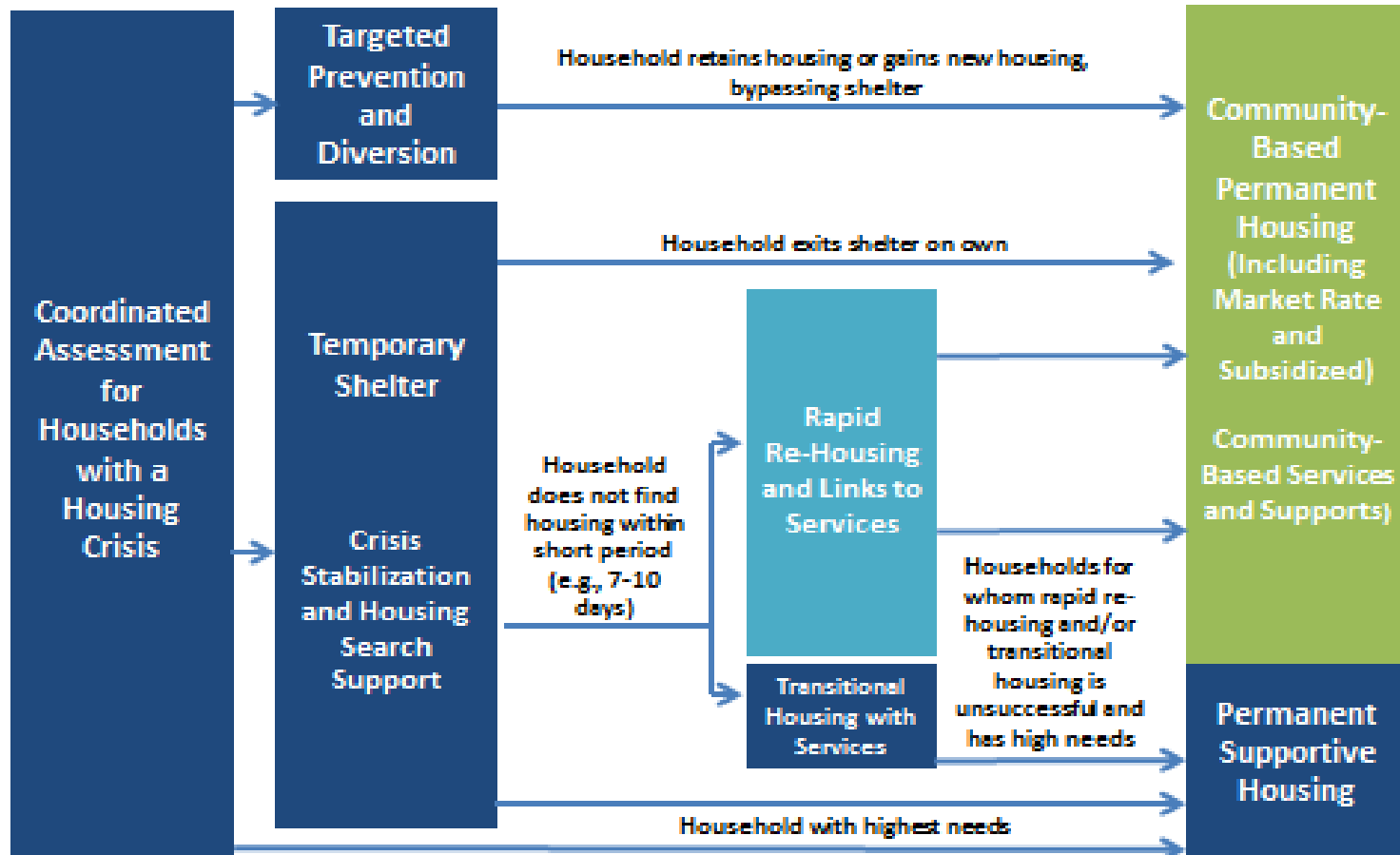
- Head to Head Comparison
  - Where did families come from
    - TH = 81% vs RR = 93% literal homelessness
    - Low barrier, non-disabled, first-time homeless
  - Length of Stay
    - TH = 405 days & RRH = 150 days
  - Exits to Permanent Housing
    - TH = 76% vs RRH = 81%
  - Cost per Permanent Exit
    - TH = \$25,000 vs RRH = \$8,000
- Conclusion: With NO NEW FUNDS, Rapid Rehousing can serve 3 times the number of households with comparable or better outcomes



# Changing Homeless Services/Policy

- Diversion vs. Prevention
- Increasing Reliance on Rapid Re-Housing
- Downsizing & Reallocating TH Resources/Strategic Re-use of Transitional Housing Resources
- Permanent Supportive Housing/Other Permanent Housing Resources Strictly Targeted to Maximize Impact And Use of Progressive Engagement

# USICH Family Crisis System Framework



# The Role of State and Local Partners

- Recognize this is a shared and under-served population.
- Examine/improve understanding of how families interact with various systems and institute policies to improve their experience and outcomes.
- Collaborate and share resources.
- Collect/analyze data to improve targeting.

# Intersection of TANF/Family Homelessness

- Housing instability/homelessness is high among TANF recipients, over 3 yrs:
  - 47% doubled up; 28% evicted; 25% entered shelter
- Risk varies across subgroups of TANF users
  - 1 in 5 of time limit hitters experience homelessness, although 2 in 5 have hsg assist.
- Nationally, 41% of families entering shelter do so with TANF assistance

# CW/Family Homelessness Intersection

- 1 in 5 young mothers in NYC shelter had been in out of home care; those who aged out stayed homeless longer.
- Nearly 1 in 5 children in NYC shelter system placed in foster care within 5 yrs after shelter entry.
- Philadelphia cohort study: mothers who experienced homelessness were:
  - 4X more likely to be CW involved than other low income mothers; and
  - more likely to have children placed in foster care.



# CW/Family Homelessness Intersection

- M. Courtney/Milwaukee: Family reunification rates are almost 50% lower for families who experienced homelessness in 12 mos. prior to child being placed into care.
- Toronto (back of envelope) study: social workers estimated that in 20% of cases family reunification was delayed due to housing needs.

# More Intersections

- Early child development/child care
- Public school system
- Workforce development
- Health/behavioral health
- Domestic violence
- Housing/affordable housing services

# Identifying and Addressing Housing Needs

- Monitor client's housing needs across systems
  - QRAFT/Questions
- Develop internal capacity to meet housing needs of clients.
  - CW: Allegheny County, PA; MA; Indiana/Flexible financial assistance

# Partner with Homeless Service System

- Facilitate homeless families' access to appropriate supports and services your agency provides:
  - Philadelphia coordinated entry assesses children's developmental needs/IDEA;
  - Cincinnati monitored HMIS, lifted impending sanctions for families entering homeless programs
  - Los Angeles outstations TANF/early childhood workers at homeless programs; set-aside subsidized employment slots

# Coordinate Casework to Work to Common Goal

- Washington, DC
  - *Multi-system case coordination*
- Washington State
  - *100 days initiative; Ending Family Homelessness*
- Keeping Families Together Initiative –
  - *Broward County, FL; Iowa; San Francisco; Memphis; and Connecticut*

# What Can TANF Agencies Do?

- Facilitate enrollment
- Expedite receipt of assistance
- Modify work requirements/allow housing search to count
- Provide additional supports – including child care, connection to employment services, intensive case management services
- Coordinate with homeless service providers to improve housing/employment outcomes
- Support and/or lead efforts to re-house families

# Promising TANF Models

- CA Housing Support Program/Family Stabilization Plan
- New Jersey/Mercer County
- Idaho/Utah: Use of short-term, non-recurrent benefits to support RRH
- Provide case management/employment support

# Child Welfare Strategies/Models

- Housing assistance improves outcomes for families – the lack of housing/poor housing is detrimental for families/children and makes child welfare agencies work harder.
- Comprehensive and strategic plan is necessary to improve overall performance and outcomes.



# Child Welfare Strategies/Models

- Adopt Housing First principles
  - Assess and provide housing resources before/during the work to promote stability
  - Target richest resources where need is most acute – most “unstable” not the most “ready”
- Expand Housing Options
  - Use of other housing interventions: prevention, RRH, TH, and vouchers to help you achieve scale needed

# Examples of Promising Child Welfare Strategies and Partnerships

- Permanent Supportive Housing
  - *Keeping Families Together, NJ*
- Strategic Targeting of Housing Subsidies
  - *Houston, Denver*
- Transitional Housing
  - *Alameda, San Francisco, Spokane*
- Rapid Re-housing
  - *Los Angeles, Alameda*
- Flexible Financial Assistance (Title IV-E waivers)
  - *Indiana, Chicago*

# Early Childhood Development

- In general, children are being connected to child development services – better than/or equal to that of other low income children – with the exception of WIC.
- However, given their heightened vulnerability and the chaotic nature of homelessness – including maternal stress, high mobility and perhaps overstimulating and difficult environments – more aggressive outreach may be needed.
- Mobile service models – such as maternal, infant early childhood home visitation programs may be particularly helpful – as they can follow/buffer child and family through multiple, potentially traumatic, minimally disorienting, moves and help offer child and parent consistency and support.

# Promising Models – Early Childhood

- Improving shelter environments
  - *Connecticut*
- Universal child development screenings
  - *Philadelphia*
- Dedicating MIECHV for homeless children in
  - *Washington State*
- Evaluating/redesigning MIECHV for homeless families
  - *Ounce of Prevention, Chicago*
- Out-stationing child development “connector” – help support rapid re-housing
  - *First Five, Los Angeles*

# Multi-system Responses:

- Two generation approach for families?  
Targeting young mothers with young children
  - Rapid re-housing to stabilize housing
  - Employment/education/services
  - Work supports
  - Early childhood development services to support parent/child bond that can follow family

# School Partnerships

- Often first point of contact for children w/hsg crisis
- School liaisons serve broader group of families than those eligible for homeless assistance
- Partnerships have developed to improve coordination/screening to identify families/youth at heightened risk – most untenable doubled up situations and facilitate access to shelter/re-housing resources.
  - *Las Vegas, DeKalb County, San Francisco*
- “Unaccompanied” youth also often first point of contact for families in crisis.

# Affordable Housing Agencies

- Target resources to homeless families
  - *Vermont – 15% of state funded resources*
- Support strategic targeting of housing – progressive engagement
  - *Sacramento, Los Angeles, Utah, Cleveland*
- Lower barriers/expedite approval process
- Prevent housing loss among current tenants
  - *King County, WA*

# Questions?

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